

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 ACDA-05 /082 W

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P R 011356Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4806

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 6434 DTG 311425Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL FAILED TO MOVE ON STATUS OF ARMY CHIEF FABIAO OR COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO AT ITS OCT 31-NOV 1 MEETING. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DID ANNOUNCE PROGRESS ON TWO IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM; CREATING TRIBUNALS TO INVESTIGATE AND TRY FORMER SECRET POLICE AND THOSE ACCUSED IN MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT; AND GIVING THE MILITARY THE RIGHT TO ARREST CIVILIANS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF MILITARY WEAPONS. TWO FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS IMPLICATED IN THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT WERE ARRESTED IN BRAGA. END SUMMARY.

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1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETS: FOLLOWING OCTOBER 31-NOV 1 MEETING, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL RELEASED STATEMENT INDICATING IT HAD:

--CREATED MILITARY TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE AND TRY THOSE ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN ABORTIVE MARCH 11 RIGHT WING COUP.

--CREATED A TRI-SERVICE TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE AND TRY MEMBERS OF PIDE-DGS, THE SECRET POLICE OF FORMER REGIME.

--APPROVED DECREE-LAW CLARIFYING PREVIOUS LEGISLATION ON ARREST AND TRIAL OF INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF CRIMES AGAINST STATE SECURITY.

--APPROVED MEASURE GIVING MILITARY RIGHT TO ARREST AND DETAIN CIVILIANS FOUND TO POSSESS MILITARY ARMS.

2. ELP ARRESTS: NORTHERN MILITARY REGION ANNOUNCED THAT BRAGA INFANTRY REGIMENT AND PORTUGUESE SECURITY POLICE HAD ARRESTED ON OCT 31 TWO FORMER MILITARY OFFICER IMPLICATED IN THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT. ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED, MAJOR ANTONIO DE SALLES MIRA GODINHO, REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANIED SPINOLA IN HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO SPAIN FOLLOWING MARCH 11 FAILURE. COPCON HAS REPORTEDLY DETAINED SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY (ELP) CONNECTIONS IN LISBON AS WELL. COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" OF NOV 1 SEIZED ON THESE DETENTIONS AS "PROOF" THAT ITS ALARMIST REPORTS OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS WARNING OF A RIGHTIST COUP WERE JUSTIFIED.

3. POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

--NEW J-5 CHIEF NAMED: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BULLETIN "DIARIO DO GOVERNO" ON OCT 31 PUBLISHED EARLIER "RESOLUTION" BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL NAMING COL. FRANCISCO DE ABREU RISCADO TO REPLACE BREVET CAPT. RAMIRO CORREIA AS CHIEF OF J-5 (AGITPROP) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. SAME ANNOUNCEMENT SAID RAMIRO CORREIA WOULD REVERT TO PERMANENT RANK OF LIEUTENANT. RISCADO MOST RECENTLY SERVED AS CHIEF OF CABINET TO ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF CARLOS FABIAO AND AS GOVERNOR OF CABINDA PROVINCE IN ANGOLA.

--SAILORS' PLENUM: NAVY ENLISTED MEN MET OCT 29-31 IN PLENUM ORGANIZED BY LEFT-LEANING COMMISSION FOR PROMOTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLIDARITY OF NAVY ENLISTED MEN (COMISSAO DINAMIZADORA DO ASSOCIATIVISMO DOS PRACAS DA ARMADA --CDAP). OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY ANOP REPORTED THAT PLENUM APPROVED ACTION OF SUPPORT FOR POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA), REPUDIATED "MANEUVERS DESIGNED TO ISOLATE" COPCON COMMANDER OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF CARLOS FABIAO, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES, AND DENOUNCED CREATION OF MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP (AMI) AND CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

--ADU ASSEMBLY: THE LEFTIST-PACKED INTER-SERVICE ASSEMBLY OF UNIT DELEGATES (ADU), MEETING OCT 31 IN LISBON, CAME OUT AGAINST THE PLAN TO DEMOBILIZE UP TO 30,000 MILITARY RESERVISTS (REFTEL). THE ADU ALSO FORMED A COMMISSION TO PRESENT ITS CASE AGAINST DEMOBILIZATION TO COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO AND ARMY CHIEF FABIAO.

--BEIROLAS ALERT: THE "ACTION COMMITTEE" OF THE MILITARY WEAPONS DEPOT IN BEIROLAS, ON OUTSKIRTS OF LISBON, HAS MAINTAINED A SELF-DECLARED "ALERT" SINCE NOON OCT 30. PRACTICAL EFFECT OF ALERT IS MORE RIGOROUS CHECKING OF THOSE ENTERING AND LEAVING THE DEPOT. DESPITE THE DISPATCH OF AN ADDITIONAL 70 TROOPS FROM LISBON MILITARY POLICE REGIMENT ON OCT 30, THE ACTION COMMITTEE HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR TIGHTER SECURITY AT THE DEPOT IN LIGHT OF ALLEGED CONTINUING THREAT FROM RIGHT.

COMMENT: THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN FAILED TO MOVE ON KEY ISSUES OF THE STATUS OF ARMY CHIEF FABIAO OR COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO. THE COUNCIL DID MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD TIGHTENING THE PROHIBITION ON CIVILIAN ARMS AND TOWARD BRINGING TO TRIAL THOSE ACCUSED OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES. THESE TWO ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MEETINGS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON06461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0394
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751184/aaaacxik.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 6434
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006